

Appl. No. 10/711,410
Amdt. dated February 23, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 30, 2005

ARGUMENTS

1. **Claims 1-10, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hagberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,948,046).**

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Response:

Applicant asserts that Claims 1-10, and 13 should not be found anticipated by Hagberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,948,046) because the teachings of Hagberg cannot “synchronously reset at least a part of the plurality of cells.” Examiner thought that the step of synchronously resetting in Claim 1 (i.e., step c) of the present invention is done by signal *i_sw* of Hagberg. However, the signals *i_sw* disclosed by Hagberg are not synchronized with each other. Specifically, there are multiple signals *i_sw_x* in the frequency divider disclosed by Hagberg (see Fig. 3), wherein these signals *i_sw_x* have different active periods. This can be found in the timing diagrams shown in Figs. 7-13 of Hagberg’s disclosure.

In addition, Hagberg discloses (col. 5, lines 8-11), “When configured in series with other 2/3-divider blocks 300, the *i_sw* signal 401a is generally supplied by a more significant neighboring 2/3-divider block 300.” More detail of the divider blocks 300 and 301 of Hagberg are shown in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, respectively. Due to the nature of circuitry, there is always latency between the signals *i_sw_x* and *i_sw_{x+1}*. In other words, the rising edges of the signals *i_sw_x* and *i_sw_{x+1}* do not occur at the same time, meaning that the signals *i_sw_x* and *i_sw_{x+1}* are not synchronized. Since all the signals *i_sw_x* have different active periods, it is impossible to realize

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the step of synchronously resetting by signals i_sw_x as stated in Claim 1 of the present invention. For the reasons explained above, the applicant kindly requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection placed on claim 1 of the present application.

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Claims 2-10 and 13 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if the independent Claim 1 is found allowable.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

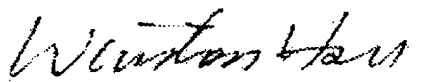
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Applicant is grateful for the Examiner's allowance as to claims 14-50.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



Date: 02.23.2006

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